



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1000

ADM



SEP 28 2000

The Honorable John Warner
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your continued leadership across the wide range of important defense programs. We want to emphasize the need to repeal the headquarters (HQ) reduction provision as the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff discussed with you in late July. Repeal of this provision is necessary to avoid serious disruption of the joint defense mission. This remains a critical readiness and quality-of-life issue as we execute Defense-wide programs, especially for our warfighting CINCs.

The Department of Defense remains committed to Goldwater-Nichols and the continuous review of HQ structure and staff to streamline processes and increase efficiency. Significant strides were made with the implementation of the Defense Reform Initiatives, and they continue to evolve more efficient staff processes. The result has been smaller, leaner HQ staffs working increasing joint mission requirements.

Further HQ reductions beyond the 35 percent already taken and those programmed through FY 2002 engender serious readiness risks. The Secretary of Defense, the Chairman and the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, CINCs, and Service Secretaries all agree more HQ cuts would impede our ability to meet the operational demands of the theater commanders in the field. For example, these new cuts represent a loss of about 1,000 additional people on the Joint Staff and in the CINC combatant HQs. At the same time, we face increasing challenges working new and critical joint programs such as theater engagement, computer network defense/attack, and joint force integration. The CINCs' ability to meet the demands of our global military presence, emerging missions, and response to new threats will be jeopardized.

We appreciate your support of repeal of the DOD HQ reduction provision.

RICHARD B. MYERS

Vice Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

RUDY DE LEON

Deputy Secretary of Defense

cc:

The Honorable Carl Levin